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LS

9 October 1970

MEMORANDUM FOR: EA/TR

SUBJECT : Weekly Activities Report

1. Chief and Deputy Chief, LS interviewed the students of a Chinese and a Russian class this week to discuss course progress. This is standard procedure at the end of about two and one half months. Both groups felt that they were getting excellent instruction. The students of Chinese felt that they could be pressed a little harder than they are and offered some other suggestions regarding tapes and audio visual materials. One of the students said that he had some difficulty assuming the mental posture or structural set of the Chinese speaker and suggested some supplemental material which gave the English equivalent of Chinese dialogues but in the structural form of Chinese. These ideas and suggestions were passed along to the Chief, Chinese Department. The students of Russian were highly pleased with their course of instruction including pace of the course and had no constructive comments to make.

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2. A comprehensive review is underway in the LS Steering Committee to evaluate the immediate playback tape recorder/player generally referred to as the "Cooper machine" for its inventor. [REDACTED] has made a series of Chinese tapes expressly for the "Cooper machine" and has experimented with the three students of his full-time Chinese class. Both male students were unanimously in favor of the immediate playback feature over the conventional lab recorder/player. They did note however that the "Cooper machine" lacks a fast forward feature which limits the student's ability to work on different portions of the tape in a small time frame. The female student in the group preferred to use the conventional Ampex recorder/player to the Cooper. Another student of French who was studying French phonology via the Cooper favored its use over the Ampex. After the students' report, the Linguistic Steering Committee discussed the relative pros and cons of the "Cooper machine", its apparent superiority over the conventional recorder, and the possibility of its use in the language lab either as an eventual replacement for the conventional recorder or as a supplement to it. The subject will be further discussed at this coming Monday's Steering Committee meeting.

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3. I met with Dr. James Frith, Dean FSI Language Training Center, on 9 October to discuss his proposal for a coordinated language training program in State and CIA. He was disappointed, although understanding, of our decision not to accept non CIA students in our Language School. He did say that if it were possible to do this, only Foreign Service Officers would be enrolled. He was pleased at our willingness to loan him our teachers, when they are available, for his use where he has no one to teach a particular language. Apparently this has been done in the past. We were not able to identify a language which we could use as a pilot at this time. I advised him that the subject was not closed, that DTR was sympathetic with the over-all concept and had in fact put it on the next staff meeting agenda. I agreed to keep him advised on developments.

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4. We held our monthly "all-hands" meeting on 7 October. Our guest speaker was [REDACTED] who talked briefly about the importance of language skills to officers in Vietnam and language requirements of the Career Trainees. The Chairman of the Faculty Advisory Committee reported on matters which it has taken up with the C/LS. The faculty was briefed on developments in the new building. A vote was taken on several proposed dates for the annual International Luncheon and the 18th of December was selected.

5. The first comprehensive full-time courses in Arabic and Persian in over two years were started this week. The Arabic class has two students from the Office of Communications and one from AF Division. Both Persian students are from NE Division.

6. The new badge system which goes into effect in the near future will affect to some extent our contract personnel. Our requirements were discussed with the badge office and a system very similar to our present one was agreed upon.

7. The Office of Communications asked for and received permission to use the two recording studios in the Hqs. language lab area for self study practice in copying Morse code. Each studio is setup with a surplus tape recorder and typewriter for their use. Most practice will take place during non duty hours and should not affect our activities in the lab. It was made perfectly clear to them that use of the studios could be withdrawn if our requirements change.

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8. Language School Statistics

Students and Classes as of 9 October 1970:

<u>Students</u>	<u>Classes</u>
Full-time - 73	Full-time - 32
Part-time - 181 (93 BAHLT) (49 Hqs.)	Part-time - 37 (8 BAHLT) (9 Hqs.)

Language laboratory hours for the week of 28 September - 2 October 1970:

Language School - 277
Headquarters - 50

Fifteen language proficiency tests were given during the week of 28 September - 2 October 1970.



Chief, Language School

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